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Title:
Speech at University Centenary Appeal launching

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UNIVERSITY CENTENARY APPEAL LAUNCHING.

Your Excellency, My Lord Mayor,
Sir James Irwin, Professor Badger,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for inviting me
here today.

We in South Australia pride ourselves
on the regard we have as a community
for the civilised values of life.

Sydney may have the spectacular harbour
and the raffish past; Melbourne may be
the citadel of commerce; Perth may retain
the flavour of the pioneering frontier
days but Adelaide is the gracious city
whose people respect and encourage
excellence in learning and the arts.

2.

This is the State in which the virtues
of dissent, freedom and liberality have
been generally - if not always
unanimously - admired from the earliest
days of settlement.

I think clear evidence of this is that
we are celebrating the centenary of the
University of Adelaide in this year when
the history of present day South
Australia itself is just over 137 years
old.

A hundred years ago this was not a rich
State - its resources were limited, its
population small and its problems many.

3.

And yet the people and Government of South Australia were prepared to set aside a substantial part of those resources to endow a new University - and to provide from the outset that it fostered the highest standards of teaching and scholarship.

They got a bargain.

They acquired a University which very quickly became an integral part of the fabric of this city, which made an enormous contribution to its development and which was itself a major force for promoting excellence in many fields of attainment.

4.

We value the same qualities today. And we still have to be prepared to pay for them.

I do most sincerely commend this appeal and hope that it will be an outstanding success drawing support from the commercial, industrial sectors of South Australia - which the University has greatly benefited - as well as from private benefactors.

For its part, I am delighted to announce today that the State Government will contribute \$250,000 to the Appeal - the money to be spent towards the cost of a new Concert Hall in a new Elder School of Music.

Adelaide University already has a justly high national reputation for its leading part in the development of Australian music and I believe that this gift will enable it to play a still greater role in the future.

My Government hopes that other donations will provide for comparable advances to be made in the other disciplines for which it is renowned.

Thank you.

SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, MR DUNSTAN, AT UNIVERSITY CENTENARY
APPEAL LAUNCHING. ADELAIDE TOWN HALL. 22.2.74.

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